Utilisationof fire-engine at Kunnamkulam for watering roads.

96. **Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—Will the Government be pleased to inform—

(a) whetherthe fire-engine stationed at Kunnamkulam can also be made use of for watering the roads in the summer ; and if not

(b) whetherit can be adjusted to do this also when it is not required to extinguish fire ?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—(a) Yes ; but the engine is primarily intended for fire-fighting purposes and it is not advisable to use it for watering the roads as it is likely to cause a primature breakdown of the costly engine. Besides, additional staff with better pay would be necessary if the engine is to be used daily.

(b) No answer is necessary in view of the answer to (a).

Enhancement of penalty for straying cattle.

97. **Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Diwan has received a petition dated 25th December 1933 from the cultivators and agriculturists of the villages of Pazhanji, Kattakampal, Mangad, etc. ;

(b) what is the prayer in the petition referred to above ;

(c) what action has been taken by the Government in the matter ?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) The petitioners pray for increasing the penalty for straying cattle to Rs. 2 and to secure to the cultivating tenants a summary remedy for damages done to them by the straying cattle.

(c) The petition is under enquiry.

Police officers and service buses.

98. **Mr. P. Krishna Menon.**—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) are the police officers authorised to board service buses even if they are fully loaded ;

(b) are the Government aware that such a practice exists in many places in the State ;

(c) is it the intention of Government to encourage such a practice ?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—(a) No.

(b) No.

(c) No.

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Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Have the Government received any complaint up-to-date?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—I have not received any complaints.

Dr. A. R. Menon—Has there been any instance of a bus being detained for the convenience of the Police Officers?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—I want notice.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Are there any instances of buses going out of the ordinary line to take any police and traffic officers?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon—I do not think I have received any complaint from bus owners.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—From the passengers?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—No.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Do they pay?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—They are supposed to pay.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Are the Police Officers exempted from payment.

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—No. No.

Traffic control staff.

99. **Mr. P. Krishna Menon.**—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) when was the traffic control staff first entertained in Cochin;

(b) have the Inspector and Sub-Inspectors been confirmed;

(c) if not confirmed, the reason for not confirming them in their respective posts;

(d) are not the incumbents put to great disadvantage for want of confirmation in regard to leave and increments of pay?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—(a) In Makaram 1105 M. E.

(b) No.

(c) Because the establishment is only temporary.

(d) Yes; to a certain extent

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—With reference to sub-section (c) have the Government any idea of having a permanent traffic control establishment?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—It is under consideration.

Mr. T. K. Nayar.—How long was it under the consideration of the Government?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—For the last one year.

Mr. T. K. Nayar.—What is the whole delay due to?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—I want notice.

Mr. T. K. Nayar.—Did the Government once assure the House that this will be done in one or two years' time?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—I do not exactly remember.

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